

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TAVISTOCK

## URBAN AREA FOR 1941.

LIBRARY



Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Johnstone & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit another interim Annual Report, this time for the year 1941. The year will remain a memorable one from the unprecedented influx of people from other area; firstly official evacuees from London and Bristol and later on in the Spring following the Plymouth "blitz" a daily exodus from the City of many thousands of people. With regard to the latter, the first arrangements to cope with this sudden inrush fell entirely upon the local resources of your Council and officials. Shelter of all descriptions was used by the evacuees at night-times, and owing to the wholehearted work of the residents of the area, and particularly the Women's Voluntary Service, succour was afforded to the homeless, and a reasonable state of decency was very soon obtained. Following this a proper Rest Centre Organisation was established, and is at the present time fully equipped and able to deal with a situation such as we had before - or worse.

The births in the Urban District were considerably above the average, but the birth rate not particularly so owing to the large increase in population from outside. The number of deaths recorded was slightly above the average and the death rate proportionately advanced. Once again, no death was recorded from puerperal causes.

Infectious diseases: Infectious diseases in general, and the exanthemata in particular, showed a marked decrease over the previous year. This is very gratifying considering the enormous overcrowding which took place in the Town in one period during the early Summer. An outbreak of typhoid fever occurred in the Public Assistance Institution and was finally traced, after infecting several nurses, to an aged inmate. All attempts to deal with the situation by proper isolation have been abortive, and a most unsatisfactory state of affairs still exists with this old female carrier still on the premises of the Public Assistance Institution. Various recommendations have been made by myself and the Medical Superintendent of the Institution without effect.

Diphtheria immunization has been proceeded with as usual, and the following table shows the percentages of the child population immunized up to the present time. There has been some slight and rather disappointing decline in the numbers immunized in the last few months but efforts will be made to rectify this later in the year.

Approx number of children in area under 5 years	403	Approx. number of children in area between 5 and 15 years of age.	1,375
Immunized under 5 years of age	34.2%	Immunized between 5 and 15 years	71.3%

It may be pointed out that facilities for immunization are available at the Infant Welfare Centre and School Clinic every Friday at the Church Rooms, and parents are strongly recommended to take their children there during the morning or afternoon sessions. The Clinic and Welfare continues to serve a useful purpose in treating minor ailments, advising mothers on their babies' welfare and distributing various foods.

Water Supply: Active steps were taken during the early Summer months of 1941 to increase the water supply to the Town. Feeders were cleared of masses of vegetable matter and new feeders taken in from fresh springs. It appears that these steps have brought about considerable amelioration in the water circumstances. Chlorination of the Kilworthy supply is undertaken by means of a drip feeder, and apart from a few complaints at higher levels of slight smell the system appears to be working very efficiently. The subsidiary supply at Bannawell Street is also chlorinated.

Inspection and supervision of Food: Milk was sampled as usual and reports made to the appropriate Committee.

As mentioned in last year's Annual Report, an unsatisfactory state of affairs still exists at the public slaughter house. Of approximately 20,000 beasts slaughtered here during the year only about half of these are inspected by the joint efforts of your inspector and the voluntary help of the rural inspector. A scheme has been prepared whereby the authorities who draw meat from this abattoir should appoint a full-time inspector. Unfortunately at the time of writing this matter is held up by what appears to be an entirely unjustified objection of one authority only. I strongly urge that this matter should be dealt with as soon as possible.

### VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Population.</u>	Registrar General	7,065
	Food Office	7,114

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	36	45	81
Illegitimate	3	5	8
			<hr/> 89 Total.

Birth rate 12.5 per 1,000 resident population  
England & Wales 14.2

Still births 3  
Still birth rate 32.6 per 1,000 live & still births

<u>DEATHS</u>	Males	55
	Females	54

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109 Total

Death rate 15.0 per 1,000 population  
Adjusted death rate }  
England & Wales } suspended.

Deaths of infants under 1 year - 4  
Death rate of infants under 1 year 44.9 per 1,000 live births  
England & Wales " " 59 " "



AGE OF DEATH TABLE

<u>Age of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Infants under 1 year	3	1	
1 - 5 years	0	0	
5 - 15 "	0	1	
15 - 25 "	0	0	
25 - 35 "	0	1	
35 - 45 "	2	0	
45 - 55 "	4	1	
55 - 65 "	10	8	
65 - 75 "	20	16	
Over 75 "	16	26	
	<hr/> 55	<hr/> 54	Total 109

TABLE OF CLUSES OF DEATH

Measles ... ..	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	1
Influenza ... ..	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	0
Tuberculosis of Resp. System	2
Other forms of tuberculosis	0
Cancer ... ..	19
Cerebral haemorrhage ...	21
Heart disease ... ..	29
Other circulatory diseases	2
Bronchitis ... ..	8
Pneumonia ... ..	2
Other respiratory diseases	1
Diseases of liver ... ..	0
Acute and chronic nephritis	2
Diseases of digestive system	3
Puerperal sepsis	0
Congenital debility, prematurity	4
Senility ... ..	0
Typhoid ... ..	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1
Diphtheria ... ..	0
Other defined diseases	13

Total 109

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Typhoid	2
Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	6
Diphtheria	6
Erysipelas	0
Measles	0
Pneumonia	0
Puerperal pyrexia	0
Tuberculosis - New cases	9
Deaths	2

I am, Mrs. Johnstone & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

E.D. ALLEN-PRICE

Medical Officer of Health.

